

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05

SAM-01 SSM-03 DHA-02 ORM-02 /085 W

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O P 201400Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1823

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 105

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

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CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 7547

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION SEPTEMBER 19-20

REF: BEIRUT 7522

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1. SUMMARY. SECOND TRIPARTITE MEETING AT CHTAURA FAILS TO

REACH AGREEMENT. PDFLP LEADER LAUNCHES FIRST ATTACK ON SARKIS AND JUNBLATT SAYS HE NOT HOPEFUL SARKIS' ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE WILL MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE. FRANGIE FAREWELL MESSAGE MAKES USUAL ATTACKS ON PALESTINIANS AND PLOTTERS. CABINET SCHEDULED TO MEET. CLASHES REPORTED AMONG VARIOUS RIGHTIST GROUPS. CHAMOUN SAYS NEW ARMY TO BE BASED ON MORALITY, PATRIOTISM AND COMPETENCE, NOT CONFESIONALISM. LAA REPORTEDLY FINDS NEW FINANCING FROM IRAQ. DISPUTE OVER LEGALITY OF PASSPORTS ISSUED IN EASTERN ZONE. GROUND SITUATION DETERIORATED WITH RESIDENTIAL SHELLING IN BEIRUT AND CLASHES IN THE MOUNTAINS.

NO ELECTRICITY IN WEST BEIRUT FOR THIRD DAY. END SUMMARY.

2. FAILURE AT CHTAURA. SECOND SARKIS-ARAFAT-KHOLY-JAMIL MEETING HELD SEP 19 AT CHTAURA WAS OBVIOUS FAILURE. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEP 24, AFTER PLANNED SARKIS INAUGURATION. (SEPTTEL.)

3. SARKIS. PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS, BACK FROM APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL TALKS WITH SADAT ANN UNSUCCESSFUL MEETINGS AT CHTAURA, CONTINUES PREPARATIONS FOR SEP 23 INAUGURATION. AN NAHAR CORRESPONDENT SAYS MAIN TOPICS SARKIS DISCUSSED WITH SADAT WERE EGYPTIAN/SYRIAN RECONCILIATION AND POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN PARTICIPATION IN AL SECURITY FORCES. AL MUHARRIR SAYS, QUOTING AL AHRAH, THAT SARKIS AND SADAT DISCUSSED COMPREHENSIVE CEASE-FIRE PLAN. DECISION ON INAUGURAL SITE NOT YET ANNOUNCED, BUT THERE IS SPECULATION NATIONAL MUSEUM BUILDING ITSELF MAY BE USED SINCE MORE SECURE THAN NEARBY VILLA MANSOUR. AL MUHARRIR REPORTS KUWAITI AL QABASS QUOTES AL DEPUTY KHOLY AS ACCUSING CHAMOUNISTS OF OBSTRUCTING INAUGURATION BY SHELLING VILLA MANSOUR. PDFLP LEADER NAYIF HAWATMEH HAS THROWN FIRST STONE AT SARKIS BY DESCRIBING PRESIDENT-ELECT'S ATTITUDE AT CHTAURA AS "IDENTICAL TO THE ATTITUDE OF KFOR FRONT AND SYRIA." MONDAY MORNING QUOTES JUNBLATT THAT HE IS "NOT ONE OF THOSE WHO ATTACH MUCH HOPE TO ASSUMPTION BY ELIAS SARKIS OF PRESIDENCY."

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4. FRANGIE MESSAGE. OUTGOING PRESIDENT IN FAREWELL RADIO ADDRESS BLAMED PALESTINIANS FOR CIVIL WAR AND CRITICIZED AL AND LEBANESE MUSLIMS FOR "BELIEVING AND SUPPORTING THE PALESTINIANS." FRANGIE SPOKE OF NEED "TO ORGANIZE THE EMIGRATION OF PALESTINIANS FROM LEBANON," SINCE "THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE IS THE CAUSE OF ALL THE ARABS." HE OFFERED CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN INITIATIVE. FRANGIE SAID HE IS TURNING OVER

POWER WITH "CLEAN HANDS AND A TRANQUIL CONSCIENCE."

5. CABINET MEETING. CABINET MEETING SCHEDULED SEP 20. L'ORIENT LE JOUR QUOTES SOURCE CLOSE TO FRANGIE THAT MEETING PLANNED AS ONLY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, BUT NEWSPAPER SAYS OTHER SOURCES BELIEVE OTHER APPOINTMENTS WOULD BE DECIDED UPON.

6. RIGHT VERSUS RIGHT. CLASHES HAVE OCCURRED AMONG VARIOUS GROUPS OF RIGHTISTS. CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL EXPECTED GO NORTH TOGETHER SEP 20 TO ATTEMPT SETTLE DISPUTE FOLLOWING SEP 18 KILLING OF TONY FRANGIE BODYGUARD BY VILLAGERS OF BECHARRE, LEADING TO RETALIATORY AMBUSH BY FRANGIE SUPPORTERS FROM VILLAGE OF ZGHORTA FOR TOTAL 14 DEAD. AL LIWA REPORTS UNCONFIRMED CLASHES BETWEEN KATAEB AND MEMBERS OF ZGHORTIAN LIBERATION ARMY IN THE KOURA. AL LIWA ALSO REPORTS CLASHES BEGINNING SEP 17 BETWEEN KATAEB AND NLP ELEMENTS IN BEIRUT, KISERWAN, ASHRAYAIYAH AND AIN EL-RUMMANEH. AN NAHAR SAYS PRO-CHAMOUNIST LEBANESE ARMY MAJOR FUAD MALIK TOOK OVER INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES BARRACKS IN ASHRIFFIYAH SEP 18 IN FEUD WITH OTHER RIGHTIST OFFICERS, BUT THAT KATAEB UNITS INTERVENED AND TOOK BARRACKS FROM BOTH FACTIONS.

7. CHAMOUN AND THE ARMY. ACTING PREMIER MET SEP 19 AT MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WITH ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF HANNA SAID. CHAMOUN LATER TOLD PRESS LEBANESE ARMY MUST BE RECONSTRUCTED "ON NEW FOUNDATIONS" AND FROM NOW ON ONLY CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION FOR ADMISSION TO MILITARY ACADEMY WILL BE "MORALITY, PATRIOTISM AND COMPETENCE," NOT "CONFESSIONALLISM AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS."

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8. LAA. WE UNDERSTAND FUNDS FOR LAA CUT OFF BY LIBYANS NOW BEING AT LEAST PARTIALLY REPLACED BY IRAQIS. REPLACEMENT OF MAJOR BUTARI, FORMER COMMANDER OF LAA IN SOUTH, HAS APPARENTLY STOPPED MUCH LAA CORRUPTION IN THAT AREA, WITH RESULTANT INCREASE IN FUNDS FOR OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE. HOWEVER, HIGH LEVEL FATAH OFFICIAL SAYS PRIVATELY OF LAA "WE DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE CROOKS."

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NEAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02

SSM-03 SY-05 SAM-01 /085 W
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O P 201400Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1824

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 106

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 7547

9. PASSPORT PROBLEMS. AS SOUHOUIFYA SAYS CERTAIN
ARAB AND FOREIGN EMBWYSIES OUTSIDE LEBANON ARE REFUSING
ACCEPT PASSPORTS ISSUED BY LEBANESE SECURITY OFFICE IN
EASTERN ZONE, SINCE ALLEGEDLY SIGNED BY UNAUTHORIZED
PERSON AND TAX STAMPS NOT IN ORDER. SOME HOLDERS OF
EASTERN ZONE PASSPORTS NOW ATTEMPTING OBTAIN SECOND
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LEBANESE PASSPORT FROM SECURITY OFFICE IN WESTERN ZONE.

10. GROUND SITUATION: BEIRUT AND SUBURBS. SITUATION DETERIORATED. CLASHES ALONG CONFRONTATION LINE AND SHELLING AND SNIPER ACTIVITY KEEPING MUSEUM CROSSPOINT VIRTUALLY CLOSED. SEVERAL FIRES REPORTED IN COMMERCIAL SECTION. FRENCH EMBASSY COMPOUND HIT BY THREE MORTARS SEP 19 AS RESIDENTIAL AREA SHELLING GAINED INTENSITY. IN SUBURBS, COMBAT REPORTED FROM GALERIE SEMAAN AND SURROUNDING AREAS ANIARTILLERY DUELS AT HADETH/LEYLAKI, KFARCHIMA, CHOUEIFAT AND SAHRET CHOUEIFAT.

1. GROUND SITUATION ELSEWHERE. HEAVIER THAN USUAL ARTILLERY DUELS IN NORTH BETWEEN TRIPOLI AND ZGHORTA AND IN SURROUNDING AREAS. IN THE MOUNTAINS, CLASHES AND BOMBARDMENTS AT ALEY/KAHALE, MTEIN, AINTOURA AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES. WE UNDERSTAND VILLAGE OF SALIMA ON PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST RESUPPLY ROUTE INTO METN WAS HEAVILY SHELLED BY SYRIANS SEP 19, FIRST SUCH SHELLING IN SOME TIME. PHALANGE CLAIMS SUCCESSFUL "SUICIDE RAID" NEAR MTEIN. AN NAHAR REPORTS EXPLOSIONS AT BAALBEK AND AL MUHARRIR REPORTS MARKET PLACE COMPLETELY DESTROYED BY FIRE AS VILLAGE CONTINUES RESTIVE UNDER SYRIAN AUTHORITY. IN FAR SOUTH, WE UNDERSTAND CLASHES AT QLAIAA ON THE ROAD BETWEEN NABATIYAH AND MARJAYOUN BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS. PALESTINIANS BELIEVE PRESSURE IN AREA IS ISRAELI OPERATION, AIMED AT CUTTING OFF PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS IN SOUTH FROM EASY ACCESS TO ARQUB AND THE BEKAA.

12. POWER SUPPLIES. NO ELECTRICITY IN MOST SECTIONS WEST BEIRUT SINCE MIDNIGHT SEP 17, LONGEST OUTAGE IN SEVERAL WEEKS. ONE REPORT THAT JAMHUR LINE AGAIN CUT. EMBASSY HAS 17,000 LITERS GENERATOR MAZOUT, ENOUGH FOR 34 DAYS, PLUS SOME 15,000 LITERS STORED AT AUB.
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